

## Message Text

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65

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CPR-01 NSC-05

PA-01 SS-15 USIA-06 PRS-01 /046 W

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R 030805Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6773

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 32874

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, TH

SUBJ: ROYAL HOUSEHOLD ANNOUNCES ENGAGEMENT OF CROWN PRINCE

1. THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD ANNOUNCED THE PENDING ENGAGEMENT OF CROWN PRINCE WACHIRALONGKON TO MOM LUANG SOMSAWALI KITTIYAKON ON DECEMBER 2. THE OFFICIAL ENGAGEMENT WILL TAKE PLACE ON DECEMBER 17 AT CHITLADA PALACE, BANGKOK. THE WEDDING IS REPORTEDLY SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 3, 1977.

2. SOMSAWALI IS THE DAUGHTER OF QUEEN SIRIKIT'S BROTHER, MOM RATCHAWONG ADUNYAKIT KITTIYAKON, AND THE KING' FIRST COUSIN MOM CHAO PHANSAWALI YUKHON. QUEEN SIRIKIT HERSELF IS RELATED TO THE KING (KING MONGKUT IS THE GREAT GREAT GRANDFATHER OF BOTH), AND THERE ARE VARIOUS OTHER GENEALOGICAL CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE PRINCIPLES INVOLVED. THE PRINCE IS THUS THE FIRST COUSIN OF HIS FIANCEE AND IS ALSO A MORE DISTANT COUSIN OF HERS SEVERAL TIMES OVER.

3. SOMSAWALI WAS BORN ON JULY 13, 1957 IN LONDON, ENGLAND. SHE HAS ATTENDED THE RATCHINI SCHOOL IN BANGKOK AND THE CHITLADA SCHOOL (AT THE ROYAL PALACE). SHE HAS NOT YET ATTENDED UNIVERSITY. SHE STUDIED AT CHITLADA AT THE SAME TIME AS THE KING'S CHILDREN, BUT IT IS NOT KNOWN WHEN SHE FIRST MET THE PRINCE. ACCORDING TO THE BANGKOK PRESS, THEIR ROMANCE BEGAN IN DECEMBER OF 1975, AFTER THE PRINCE'S RETURN FROM MILITARY

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SCHOOL IN AUSTRALIA. SINCE THEN SHE HAS ACCOMPANIED

THE ROYAL FAMILY ON SEVERAL UPCOUNTRY TRIPS, AND HAS  
BEEN INVOLVED IN VARIOUS ROYAL PROJECTS.  
WHITEHOUSE

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